

## Message Text

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TAGS: ELAB, PINT, CA

SUBJECT: SPEECH BY NOVA SCOTIA PREMIER GERALD REGAN  
BEFORE JOINT LABOR-MANAGEMENT STUDY CONFERENCE

1. PRESS AND MEDIA HAVE ZEROED IN ON PART OF SPEECH  
MADE ON FEBRUARY 5 BY PREMIER REGAN AT JOINT LABOR-  
MANAGEMENT CONFERENC WHICH DEALS WITH LABOR S ATTITUDE  
TO FEDERAL ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM.

2. IN DESCRIBING VARIOUS LABOR-MANAGEMENT DIFFICULTIES,  
THE PREMIER SAID, THE GREATEST SINGLE PROBLEM OF AN  
IMMEDIATE NATURE CONFOUNDING MANAGEMENT-LABOR  
RELATIONS IS THE UNWILLINGNESS OF SOME SEGMENTS OF  
LABOR, PARTICULARLY NATIONAL LEADERSHIP OF LABOR, TO  
SUBSCRIBE TO THE LAW OF THE LAND AS ESTABLISHED BY THE  
ANTI-INFLATION BILL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA.  
HE WENT ON TO SAY, THE ANTI-INFLATION LEGISLATION  
PROVIDES THAT PEOPLE MAY GO ON STRIKE, MAY STILL MAKE  
ANY DEMAND TO MANAGEMENT THAT THEY WISH BY WAY OF  
INCREASED REMUNERATION BUT PROVIDES THAT THEY CANNOT  
RECEIVE OR BENEFIT AS A RESULT OF THE STRIKE FROM ANY  
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INCREASE ABOVE THE GUIDELINES, UNLESS IN SPECIAL

CIRCUMSTANCES THE ANTI-INFLATION BOARD HAS APPROVED THAT AMOUNT. THE RESULT IS THAT AS LONG AS LABOUR DOES NOT ACCEPT THAT THE ANTI-INFLATION LAW WILL STICK, ANY NUMBER OF WORKERS MAY LOSE THEIR WAGES AND THE ECONOMY MAY SUFFER SEVERE LOSSES FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD OF TIME IN FRUITLESS STRIKES.

3. THE PREMIER POINTED OUT THAT THIS APPEARED TO APPLY TO THE PAPER MILL STRIKES PRESENTLY TAKING PLACE IN NOVA SCOTIA. HE SAID, "IT IS TRAGIC ENOUGH FOR THE LOSSES INCURRED BY STRIKES TO AFFECT EMPLOYEES OF THE COMPANY, PEOPLE FROM OUTSIDE THE BARGAINING UNIT AND SOCIETY AS A WHOLE WHEN THERE IS A GENUINE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT THE COMPANY IS WILLING TO PAY AND WHAT THE WORKERS MAY ACHIEVE BY WAY OF A SETTLEMENT. IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE THE LAW PRECLUDES SETTLEMENT ABOVE A CERTAIN FIGURE ALL THOSE LOSSES ARE AS NEEDLESS AS THEY ARE TRAGIC".

4. MR REGAN TOLD THE SENIOR LABOR LEADERS AT THE CONFERENCE THAT THEY SHOULD DIRECT THEIR COMMENTS BEYOND OPINIONS ON THE FAIRNESS OF THE FEDERAL ANTI-INFLATION LEGISLATION. "THEY SHOULD FRANKLY APPRAISE THEIR CHANCES OF HAVING IT CHANGED, OR ABOLISHED, SO THAT THE FRONT LINE TROOPS PRESENTLY ON STRIKE IN SUPPORT OF INCREASES BEYOND THE GUIDELINES CAN JUDGE WHETHER THEIR SACRIFICE IS BEING MADE WHOLLY IN VAIN."

5. THE PREMIER THEN TURNED TO THE RESULTS OF STRIKES AND STRIKE PRESSURE IN ESSENTIAL INDUSTRIES AND ESSENTIAL PUBLIC SERVICES. HE SAID THE PATTERN OF WAGE DEMANDS, STRIKES AND SETTLEMENTS IN THESE AREAS HAS LED THE WAY IN CONTRIBUTING TO INFLATION. "BEYOND CONTRIBUTING TO INFLATION, SETTLEMENTS IN ESSENTIAL INDUSTRIES AND SERVICES FAR LARGER THAN THOSE WHICH CAN BE ACHIEVED IN NON-ESSENTIAL SEGMENTS OF THE ECONOMY, THREATENS TO CREATE A NEW ELITE IN OUR COUNTRY, BASED NOT ON SKILL OR PRODUCTIVITY, BUT ON THE HAPPENSTANCE OF EMPLOYMENT IN ESSENTIAL INDUSTRY."

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6. THE PREMIER SAID THAT THE WHOLE QUESTION OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND STRIKES IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE IS TODAY SUBJECT TO REEXAMINATION.

7. AS WAS TO BE EXPECTED THE PREMIER'S STATEMENTS BROUGHT IMMEDIATE SHARP CRITICISM. THE NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE CANADIAN LABOR CONGRESS, MRS SHIRLEY

CARR, WHO WAS AT THE CONFERENCE, SAID IN AN INTERVIEW THAT THE PREMIER HAD NO RIGHT TO ENTER A LABOR-MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE AND ENGAGE IN A POLITICAL ATTACK ON LABOR. SHE SAID, "IN ALL MY YEARS WITHIN THE LABOR MOVEMENT I HAVE NEVER BEEN SO ANGRY WITH THE REMARKS OF ANY ONE PERSON". MRS CARR SAID THE PREMIER HAD DESTROYED THE ATTEMPTS AT THE CONFERENCE TO REACH A COMMON UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN MANAGEMENT AND LABOR. ON FEBRUARY 6 MRS CARR IS TO ADDRESS THE CONFERENCE AS IS ALSO THE ANTI-INFLATION BOARD CHAIRMAN, JEAN-LUC PEPIN.

8. THE FULL TEXT OF THE PREMIER S SPEECH IS BEING TRANSMITTED BY AIRGRAM. MANBEY

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